

THE SPOTLight

News From Councilmember Sherri Lightner

City of San Diego, District One

February 18, 2011

SIO Lifeguard Tower to be Renovated

Sherri joined Mayor Jerry Sanders, UCSD Chancellor Marye Anne Fox, and Lifeguard Chief Rick Wurtz on February 3rd to announce the renovation of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography Lifeguard Tower at La Jolla Shores. The project will enhance and upgrade the existing tower, which is in disrepair, improving sightlines, maximizing the efficiency of the space, and upgrading the public announcement system.



Rendering of the renovated lifeguard tower.

"The revitalized lifeguard tower exemplifies how partnerships between the City, UC San Diego, local businesses and the community can accomplish great things, even during tough economic times," Sherri said.

Local firm Safdie Rabines Architects donated the design work, and Sundt Construction, Inc is donating labor and supplies. City of San Diego Lifeguards were involved in the design process to ensure the upgraded tower will meet their needs. As a part of UC San Diego's 50th Anniversary Volunteer 50 initiative, University and community volunteers will complete much of the work.

"I look forward to continuing to partner with UC San Diego on projects that are important to the community," Sherri said. Work on the tower has already begun and will be completed before summer.



Sherri joined Police Chief Lansdowne and Mayor Sanders at a February 2nd news conference announcing the crime statistics.

[Watch a Video of the News Conference](#)

Crime Rate Reaches Historic Low

There is good news in San Diego's fight against crime.

In 2010, San Diego's crime rate dropped to the lowest level since 1963. The total number of major crimes dropped nearly 5 percent in 2010 compared to the previous year. Crime statistics show that our Police Department is doing an outstanding job for our communities, despite limited resources. The department's emphasis on Community Policing has been particularly effective in reducing crime in our neighborhoods.

One strong advocate of Community Policing, Captain Al Guatarrama, recently took command of SDPD's Northern and Northwestern Divisions, which includes La Jolla, UC, Torrey Pines, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Torrey Highlands, and Black Mountain Ranch. A 23-year veteran of SDPD, Al most recently served as commanding officer of the Southern Division. If you would like more information about your neighborhood's SDPD Community Resources Officer, please contact our office.



Sherri enjoyed getting to know the members of the [San Diego Youth Commission](#) on January 19th.

Pacific Highlands Ranch Update: Prop. C Implementation Working Group

We're moving forward with plans to complete the Pacific Highlands Ranch neighborhood. To make this a reality, the community worked diligently to qualify Proposition C for the November 2010 ballot and campaigned for its successful passage. With the formation of the Proposition C Implementation Working Group, we're beginning a collaborative effort between the community and City staff to create a program to develop Pacific Highlands Ranch in phases.

On February 4th, Sherri hosted the kick-off meeting of the new working group. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings to provide input. Please contact our office for meeting schedules and additional information.

On February 8th, Sherri was joined by representatives from the [American Heart Association](#) to declare February as "American Heart Month."



Sherri gave an update to the University City Village Residents Association at their January 15th meeting.

Torrey Pines Corridor Project Update

Thank you to all the community members who participated in the informational forum on the conceptual design of the Torrey Pines Corridor Project on January 19th. We received many good suggestions and comments.

The discussion on this project will be continuing with an opportunity to provide public input at the La Jolla Traffic and Transportation Board meeting on **Thursday, February 24 at 6 pm** at the La Jolla Rec Center.

[View conceptual plans and information about the preliminary design work on the project website.](#)



Before and after renderings of north side of Torrey Pines Road between Coast Walk & Prospect Place.



Before and after renderings, south side of Torrey Pines Road between Coast Walk and Amalfi Street.

Working for You: Making it Easier to Plant Community Gardens



Sherri is helping to move the City forward with proposals that will make it easier to plant community gardens in the City of San Diego.

City Councilmembers have heard from many residents about the importance of being able to plant community gardens. Obstacles in the permitting process have made it nearly impossible to plant these types of gardens in the past.

Soon residents will have the opportunity to work together on projects that will provide health benefits by improving access to affordable fresh fruits and vegetables and also foster community pride.

At the February 9th meeting of the Land Use and Housing Committee, Development Services Department staff presented an update on proposed amendments to community gardens regulations that will make it easier to plant these gardens in commercial zones throughout the City.

City staff will be presenting this proposal to the community for their input, and a draft of proposed regulations will also be circulated to interested parties, including all community planning group members.

We're looking forward to partnering with citizens to make community gardens a reality. We encourage all residents with an interest in community gardens to participate in the community meetings on this topic or contact our office to receive more information and share their input.

Land Use and Housing Committee Update

As Chair of the Land Use and Housing Committee of the City Council for 2011, Sherri plans to tackle many issues of importance to the community. Over the coming months, the Committee will be working to identify a site for next winter's temporary homeless shelter, moving forward with new regulations to make it easier to plant community gardens in our city, addressing best practices and alternative mechanisms to fund affordable housing, and pursuing updates to the City's Land Development Code, including amendments to industrial zoning regulations. Please contact our office if you would like to share your priorities for items related to land use and housing issues.



Sherri joined Mayor Sanders and the Jacobs family at the dedication of the new Deni & Jeff Jacobs Challenged Athletes Center in Sorrento Valley on February 8th.

The Center will train challenged athletes, educate the public, and serve as national headquarters for the [Challenged Athletes Foundation](#).

Kawasaki Disease Awareness Day



Sherri recently proclaimed January 26, 2011 to be "Kawasaki Disease Awareness Day". The proclamation recognized the [Kawasaki Disease Foundation's](#) mission to raise awareness of the serious illness, which is characterized by inflammation of blood vessels throughout the body. Kawasaki Disease (KD) primarily affects infants under the age of 5 and is diagnosed in 4,000 to 5,000 children per year. It is the leading cause of acquired heart disease in children. Last year, 100 new patients were diagnosed with KD in San Diego. Fortunately, we are home to the only dedicated KD research center in the U.S. – a joint effort between UCSD's Medical Center and Rady Children's Hospital.



Sherri joined San Diego Police Chief Lansdowne, and Assistant Chief Zimmerman at the Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol graduation ceremony on February 3rd.

La Jolla Business Improvement District Update: New Merchants Association Formed

In great news for our business community, elections for the new La Jolla Village Merchants Association are being conducted now.

Ballots will be counted on **Friday, February 18, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the La Jolla Rec Center**. The top 15 vote-getters will constitute the first Board of Directors for the new group. The new board will be ready to begin work immediately thanks to the efforts of many dedicated volunteers who have worked tirelessly over the past several months to draft bylaws and a concept budget for the new group to consider.

We're looking forward to the group's first meeting, scheduled for **Thursday, February 24 at 8:30 am** at the **La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue**. The public is invited to attend.



*On February 15th, Sherri presented a proclamation celebrating **National Engineers Week**, which is February 20-26. A licensed mechanical engineer, Sherri said, "Engineering is a well-respected profession that allows for intellectual, personal, and career growth. San Diego needs more engineers now and in the future."*

Your Community Representatives

If you have a concern or question about an issue in your neighborhood, please contact our constituent services representative or your community representative. We're here to help!

Torrey Hills / Constituent Services (street repairs, water leaks, traffic issues, code compliance, etc.)

Janie Hoover jmhoover@sandiego.gov (619) 236-6611

La Jolla

Erin Demorest edemorest@sandiego.gov (619) 236-6611

Black Mountain Ranch / Rancho Peñasquitos / Torrey Highlands

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